

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CONAKR 01955 01 OF 02 251514Z

42

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
----- 002831

O 251435Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2352

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 CONAKRY 1955

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR US UR GV MILI EAID SGIV

SUBJECT: SOVIET RECONNAISSANCE DEPLOYMENTS

REF: (A) STATE 236801, (B) CONAKRY 1939

1. SUMMARY: GOG EXPLAINS FRESH DEPLOYMENT TU 95 AIRCRAFT ON BASIS OVERRIDING NEED FOR PROTECTION AGAINST IMMINENT ARMED ATTACK. PRIMMIN, FONMIN, AND DEFMIN TAKE LINE THAT CESSATION OF FLIGHTS WAS ALWAYS SUBJECT TO US SECURITY GUARANTEE WHICH NOT RECEIVED. GOG IS QUITE AWARE OF HOW OFFENSIVE THEIR DISINGENUOUS ACTION IS TO U.S. WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR FURTHER CLARIFICATION. MEANWHILE, PL 480 SHOULD REMAIN IN LIMBO. REQUEST U.S. INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY BEGIN TO WORK UP ANALYSIS OF EXTERNAL THREAT TO GUINEA WHICH MAY SUBSEQUENTLY PROVE USEFUL. END SUMMARY.

2. HAD 90 MINUTE SESSION WITH PRIME MINISTER BEAVOGUI, FOREIGN MINISTER CISSOKO, DEFENSE MINISTER ALAPHAIX KOUROUMA AND PRESIDENTIAL CHIEF OF PROTOCOL ALY BANGOURA ON SEPTEMBER 24 TO DISCUSS REAPPEARANCE OF SOVIET TU-95'S IN CONAKRY. DCM ALSO PRESENT. THIS WAS IN RESPONSE MY REQUEST TO SEE PRESIDENT.

3. I UNDERSCORED U.S. DISPLEASURE AND SURPRISE THAT FLIGHTS HAD BEEN ALLOWED TO RESUME ONLY ONE DAY AFTER SIGNING OF PL-480 RICE ACCORD IN CONTRADICTION WITH DIAKATE'S AS-
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 CONAKR 01955 01 OF 02 251514Z

SURANCES OF JULY 30 THAT THEY WOULD CEASE SEPT. 1. I

STRESSED THAT U.S. HAD ACTED IN GOOD FAITH BY WORKING TO PREPARE A RESPONSE ON GUINEA'S "SECURITY GUARANTEE" REQUEST WHICH HAD BEEN MOVING FORWARD TO POINT U.S. HAD EVEN BEGUN CONTACT WITH ANOTHER AFRICAN COUNTRY TO THIS END. I NOTED THAT, AS I HAD TAKEN PAINS TO INDICATE AT THE OUTSET OF DISCUSSIONS ON THE TU-95'S, DEPLOYMENTS FROM GUINEA DIRECTED AT U.S. FORCES MADE IT MOST DIFFICULT TO MAINTAIN COOPERATION WITH GOG AS WE MIGHT OTHERWISE DESIRE. WHY HAD GOG CHANGED ITS DECISION TO PURSUE STRICTLY NON-ALIGNED POLICY, A DECISION WELCOMED BY SECSTATE IN HIS LETTER TO PRESIDENT?

4. BEAVOGUI RESPONDED WITH 40-MINUTE REHASH OF HISTORY OF U.S.- GUINEAN RELATIONS, REASSERTING UNCHANGEABILITY AND CONSISTENCY OF GOG'S INDEPENDENT, NONALIGNED POLICY. ALTHOUGH GOG HAS ALWAYS REGARDED U.S. AS FRIENDLY COUNTRY TO WHICH GOG FIRST TURNED FOR AID IN 1958, GOG WILL MAKE NO DEALS, EVEN IN SECRET, OF "ENFEUDALIZING" KIND. CURRENTLY GUINEA FEELS ITSELF UNDER SIEGE, ITS FRONTIERS AND AIRSPACE VIOLATED (PARTICULARLY THIS SEPTEMBER), FIFTH COLUMNISTS ACTIVE, CONFESSIONS OF DIALLO TELLI'S GROUP WORRISOME. FRENCH AND OTHERS WERE SUPPORTING MILITARY PREPARATIONS. SOVIET TU-95 AIRCRAFT PROVIDE SOME MEASURE OF WARNING AND PROTECTION. EVEN SO, GOG ALLOWS SOVIETS NO BASES AND TU-95'S ARE CLEARED ON STRICT ONE-TIME BASIS.

5. I NOTED THAT DIAKITE HAD EARLIER STATED THAT GUINEA NO LONGER FEARED ATTACK FROM SEA. AS MY MEMO TO PRESIDENT TOURE ON JUNE 4 HAD SOUGHT TO DOCUMENT, TU-95'S MISSION IS NOT TO PATROL GUINEA'S APPROACHES BUT TO OVERFLY AND OBSERVE U.S. SHIPS FAR DISTANT FROM GUINEA FOR SOVIET NATIONAL PURPOSES. BEARS ARE SOPHISTICATED LONG RANGE ELECTRONIC ESPIONAGE AIRCRAFT NEITHER DESIGNED NOR SUITED FOR SHORE OR BORDER PATROL. THEIR DEPLOYMENTS, AS ON THIS OCCASION, NORMALLY COINCIDE WITH US AND NATO FLEET MANEUVERS. THIS MISSION IS NOT RELATED TO GUINEAN SECURITY. MOREOVER, I HAD BEEN ASSURED FLATLY BY DIAKITE ON WHAT HE SAID WAS PRESIDENTIAL AUTHORITY THAT FLIGHTS WOULD STOP AFTER SEPTEMBER 1, ON UNDERSTANDING THAT U.S. WOULD BE RESPONDING CONSTRUCTIVELY ON "SECURITY" ISSUE.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 CONAKR 01955 01 OF 02 251514Z

SECRET

NNN

SECRET

PAGE 01 CONAKR 01955 02 OF 02 251522Z

44

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

----- 002917

O 251435Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2353

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 CONAKRY 1955

EXDIS

6. MINDEF REPLIED THAT DEAL WITH ME HAD IN FACT BEEN THAT U.S. WOULD ENDEAVOR TO RESPOND ON SECURITY BUT THAT UNTIL IT DID, GOG WAS FREE TO CONTINUE TO RELY ON PERIODIC SOVIET FLIGHTS AS IT DEEMED BEST. LOGICALLY, GOG COULD NEVER LEAVE ITSELF EXPOSED AWAITING REPLY. MINDEF AND FONMIN BOTH TOOK LINE THAT IF U.S. REALLY WANTS TU-95 FLIGHTS STOPPED, IT MUST BE PREPARED TO PROVIDE SOME CREDIBLE SUBSTITUTE TO COVER GOG'S REQUIREMENTS. FONMIN SAID THIS ISSUE HAD GONE BEFORE PRG'S POLITICAL BUREAU, WHOSE POSITION WAS REFLECTED IN WHAT HAD BEEN SAID. PRIMIN SAID THAT STRONG U.S. REACTION TO FLIGHTS, IN VIEW OF MY DEMARCHE, WOULD BE DISCUSSED BY POLITICAL BUREAU AND CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

7. I CONCLUDED SESSION BY NOTING THAT WHILE U.S. DOES NOT PLACE POLITICAL CONDITIONS UPON FOOD AID, U.S. PUBLIC COULD NOT AGREE TO PROVISION OF LIBERAL AID TO A GOVERNMENT WHICH BEHAVED AS THOUGH IN A MILITARY ALLIANCE COUNTER TO U.S. NATIONAL INTERESTS. COLLAPSE OF PREVIOUS UNDERSTANDING ON TU-95'S WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN TO SECRETARY KISSINGER, WHO WAS JUST RETURNING FROM HISTORIC PEACE MISSION TO SOUTHERN AFRICA. I WAS INSTRUCTED TO STATE THAT IT WOULD NOT BE CONVENIENT FOR USG TO RECEIVE GOG'S PL-480 NEGOTIATORS KOUROUMA AND KEITA PENDING CLARIFICATION FROM GOG.

8. COMMENT: FACT THAT PRESIDENT ASSIGNED BEAVOGUI THE UNPLEASANT TASK OF RECEIVING US DEMARCHE BUT HAD HIS OWN PERSONAL CONFIDENT ALY BANGOURA PRESENT SHOWS HE IS SENSITIVE

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 CONAKR 01955 02 OF 02 251522Z

TO THE DECEIT INVOLVED IN GUINEAN POLICY AND IS CONCERNED ABOUT OUR REACTION. MINISTERS PRESENT DISPLAYED WHAT MUST

BE TERMED PARANOIA ABOUT GUINEAN SECURITY, REFERRING TO RECENT AIF INCURSIONS AND A "MODERN MILITARY CAMP" IN SENEGALJS NIOKOLO KOKO PARK. THEY INSIST THAT TU-95S PROVIDE FRONTIER AND COASTAL PROTECTION (BEAVOGUI CONTRADICTED DIAKITE'S EARLIER ASSERTION THAT GOG NO LONGER FEARED SEABORNE ATTACK) ALTHOUGH I AM PERSUADED THAT THEY IN FACT BELIEVE - AT LEAST PARTIALLY - OUR REPEATED EXPLANATIONS OF REAL ROLE OF TU-95S.

9. WILL NOT SPECULATE ON REASONS BEHIND THIS DECEITFUL ACTION PENDING FURTHER EFFORTS OBTAIN CLARIFICATION HERE. WILL TAKE POSITION THAT GOG IS PURSUING FRANKLY ALIGNED POLICY AGAINST US INTERESTS, THAT GOG EXPLANATIONS ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE, AND THAT WE ARE AWAITING SOMETHING BETTER.

10. RECOMMENDATION:

A) RECOMMEND PL 480 TITLE I BOTH 10,000 TON RICE AGREEMENT JUST SIGNED AND ANY OTHER NEGOTIATIONS) REMAIN IN SUSPENSE UNTIL WE HAVE SOUGHT FURTHER CLARIFICATION AND REVIEWED OUR OPTIONS;

B) SINCE GOG IS OBSESSED BY SUPPOSED DANGER OF ATTACK, IT MAY PROVE VERY USEFUL FOR US IN FUTURE DISCUSSION TO HAVE INTELLIGENCE ANALYSIS OF EXTERNAL THREAT TO GUINEA, AND WOULD APPRECIATE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY PREPARING SUCH A PAPER.

MINISTERS WERE CLEARLY IMPRESSED BY NEWS THAT U.S. HAD BEGUN TO LOOK INTO THIS MATTER.

1. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO REPEAT TO MOSCOW, PARIS, BONN, ABIDJAN, DAKAR, FREETOWN, BISSAU OR BAMAKO AS APPROPRIATE. HARROP

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic DecapTIONing: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NATIONAL SECURITY, AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE, OBSERVATION AIRCRAFT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 SEP 1976
DecapTION Date: 28 MAY 2004
DecapTION Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976CONAKR01955
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760363-0230
From: CONAKRY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760920/aaaaaref.tel
Line Count: 204
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 76 STATE 236801, 76 CONAKRY 1939
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 AUG 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: WITHDRAWN <26 APR 2004 by CollinP0, REFER TO DIA>; RELEASED <13 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <16 AUG 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET RECONNAISSANCE DEPLOYMENTS
TAGS: PFOR, MILI, EAID, US, UR, GV
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006